

Their dedication to Israel, however, began long before the State of Israel was created.

Born in Vienna, Rita was immersed in Judaism as a young child. During WWII, when Hitler invaded Austria, Rita's father was shipped to Poland. He fortunately escaped and her mother managed to get herself and her daughters out of Austria. Rita was sent to London on Kindertransport and was not reunited with her family until the war ended. The determination, positive attitude, tremendous resilience, and adaptability that helped her survive still guide her life today. Rita's family was miraculously reunited in America, settling in Los Angeles where Rita attended Belmont High School and graduated from USC with a degree in business administration.

Jack, raised in the Orthodox tradition by his father, a prominent Rabbi in Michigan, earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State. He worked for a machine tool company that supplied parts to the big three automakers. He was asked by an associate to help send machine tools to the Jewish fighters in Israel, and together with his friends, he shipped tools which ultimately helped in the creation of the Israeli aircraft industry and the Israeli Air Force.

Rita and Jack have been an integral force in the Jewish Community, living up to the motto, "Give of yourself first and only then ask others to join you." They have generously contributed their time and resources to VBS, the Jewish Federation, Israel Bonds, AIPAC and many other worthy organizations. They endowed the Midrasa Program at the VBS, where Jack formerly was a member of the board of directors and currently serves on the board of trustees and the steering committee. Rita has chaired many special events at VBS. She is past president of the San Fernando Valley Women's Division of Israel Bonds and the Golda Meir Club, an active member of AIPAC, serving on its national executive board, and is past president and member of the executive board of the Women's Alliance of Israel. Rita and Jack are founding members of the American Jewish University's Wagner Program, university patrons and also patrons of the Wiesenthal Center.

Rita and Jack work together in their business, Jasin Co., he as a real estate developer and she as a real estate broker and property manager. They are the proud parents of Sherri and Alan and adore their three grandchildren. Rita and Jack's greatest joys are being with family and friends, boating and travel.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rita and Jack Sinder, who have devoted their lives to working for the survival of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARA LETICA SAAD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mara Letica Saad of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, who has been honored by Crain's Detroit Business Publication as one of southeast Michigan's "Most Influential Women" over the past five years.

Mara Letica Saad's experiences are unique, remarkable and in many ways, reflect her wonderful family's success story. Mara was born in Germany during her father, Ilija Letica's journey toward America after escaping communist rule in former Yugoslavia. Soon they reached their destination in Greenville, Michigan where Mara attended the local schools and her father began to work toward his vision for Letica Corporation, a plastic packaging company.

Mara attended The University of Michigan where she earned a bachelors degree in history. She traveled west to Seattle University to study law and remained in Washington for several years working as a prosecutor and a commercial litigator.

Fortunately, Mara did not stray long from Michigan. She returned to join the family business and after twenty years, Mara continues to successfully balance many roles as the corporation's executive vice president, general counsel and secretary. Along with her father and other family members, Mara has helped build Letica Corporation, now headquartered in Rochester, Michigan into a nationwide manufacturer of paper and plastic packaging with more than a dozen locations throughout the U.S.

Mara Letica Saad's accomplishments are not limited to the business world. Throughout her life she has had a strong interest in her family's birthplace, Croatia, and was actively involved in Croatia's independence movement. With her father, she organized a group of attorneys in the U.S. to aid and supervise the 1990 elections in Croatia. Her efforts were recognized by President George H.W. Bush and she was nominated to be Ambassador to Croatia.

An active participant in the Detroit area community, Mara serves on the board of the Motor City Lyric Opera and until recently served on the board of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. She resides in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan with her husband, Judge Henry Saad, and they have four grown children.

Mara Letica Saad has excelled in her profession and her touched many in southeast Michigan and beyond.

Mara Letica Saad is a loyal and loving family member with a passion for its history, culture, and human dignity. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mara Letica Saad, recipient of southeast Michigan's "Most Influential Women." She truly merits our respect and admiration.

STATEMENT ON LIHEAP

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on colleagues to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, during this year's appropriations process, at the full \$5.1 billion.

LIHEAP is a vital program that helps low-income Americans pay their heating and cooling bills.

Our nation is facing an escalating energy crisis. More and more, American families are being forced to make difficult decisions be-

tween putting food on their tables and paying their utility bills.

If the current trend continues, LIHEAP will not have enough funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2008. Soaring energy prices combined with another heat wave this summer could be deadly if we don't act now to fully fund this important program.

This presents a particular risk to our Nation's most vulnerable, the elderly, infirm and children. Extreme temperatures can be incredibly dangerous to those with compromised physical conditions. They need to be protected and we have the ability to protect them by fully funding LIHEAP.

This month, utility shut-off moratoriums that have been offered by states are set to expire just as temperatures are rising. With past-due notices on the rise, there is no question that millions of Americans could be facing summers with no cooling options available. There is simply no time to waste. I urge all of my colleagues to act now to fully fund LIHEAP. American families cannot sweat out Congress's delays on this matter.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIAA-CREF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, in keeping with his philosophy that "the man who dies rich thus dies disgraced," Andrew Carnegie took care in distributing his substantial wealth, largely toward the goal of promoting education. When Mr. Carnegie became a trustee at Cornell University, in my home State of New York, he was appalled to learn how little professors earned and thought they deserved financial security. As a result, he donated \$10 million to fund a system of pensions that today allows colleges and universities in the United States to offer some of the best retirement plans in the Nation.

In 1918, the Carnegie Foundation established the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, known today as TIAA, a fully-funded system of pensions for professors. By the end of its first year, 30 public and private institutions had signed on. After World War II, facing inflation and increased longevity, TIAA created the College Retirement Equities Fund, the world's first variable annuity in 1952. As TIAA-CREF evolved over the years to meet new challenges, its noble mission bestowed on them by Carnegie never changed: to aid and strengthen the institutions they serve and to provide financial products that are suited to the needs of such entities, their employees, and their families on the best terms practicable.

In his autobiography, Carnegie wrote: "Many college pension fund beneficiaries and their widows have written to me most affecting letters. These I can never destroy, for if I ever have a fit of melancholy, I know the cure lies in re-reading these letters."

TIAA-CREF continues to have a special relationship with those in higher education and also serves those who work in the medical, cultural, and research fields. Today TIAA-CREF celebrates its 90th Anniversary and continues to serve those whose life work advances the greater good.